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Letter dated 3 November 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I would like to refer to Security Council resolution 1603 (2005) by which the Council requested me to designate, as an exceptional arrangement, a High Representative for the elections in Côte d'Ivoire, autonomous from the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), to assist in the work of the Independent Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Council. In the same resolution, the Security Council called upon the donor community to provide all the necessary financial resources to the High Representative to support the full implementation of his mission.

As you are aware, in July 2005, I appointed Antonio Monteiro as the High Representative. Since taking up his post, Mr. Monteiro has significantly contributed to the resolution of some key issues pertaining to the organization of open, free, fair and transparent elections in Côte d'Ivoire. On 12 October 2005, he briefed the Security Council on those issues and on his activities.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) put in place a project to receive contributions from donors to support the work of the High Representative and his office. In addition, UNDP made an advance payment of 600,000 United States dollars to that project against future contributions from the donor community, thus enabling the High Representative to perform his mandated functions up to now.

I wish, however, to inform the Council that the anticipated contributions have yet to materialize. The lack of funding for the High Representative's activities is particularly worrying, considering that preparations for the elections are a crucial component of the post-30 October arrangements put in place by the African Union decision of 6 October 2005 and endorsed by the Security Council through its resolution 1633 (2005).

While UNDP and the Secretariat will continue to work with the donor community, I also wish to strongly appeal to members of the Security Council, in particular, to take the lead in fulfilling their responsibilities emanating from their own decision by contributing to this very important project.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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